Discharge Instructions / Education Materials for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE): A Comprehensive Approach to Medication Management

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO MEDICATION MANAGEMENT
The Joint Commission Mission

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Funding source

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Discharge Instructions / Education Materials for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE):  
A Comprehensive Approach to Medication Management  
Compendium of Resources

**Purpose**
This document contains descriptions of resources and references to web sites that provide patient education resources related to the use of anticoagulants for venous thromboembolism (VTE). These resources have been compiled from key stakeholders and relevant professional associations and have been reviewed by an eight-member Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). This compendium is provided to give guidance to clinicians and other health educators looking for reliable and up-to-date patient education materials. Healthcare organizations are encouraged to review these materials as they adapt or develop their own patient discharge instructions and / or education materials for VTE and anticoagulation therapy.

**How to use this Resource list**
Resources are listed in alphabetical order by the professional association or organization responsible for developing the resources. A brief description of the organization and the materials, as well as weblinks, are included. For easy access to the resources, this document should be viewed in electronic format, rather than printed in hard copy, because the web site URLs are hyperlinked.

**Funding**
This project was funded with generous support from Bristol-Myers Squibb / Pfizer, Inc. through a corporate giving contract.

**Acknowledgments**
The Joint Commission project team is sincerely appreciative of the many individuals and organizations that contributed to this compendium of resources during the various stages of the project.

We were privileged to work with a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to help guide the project progress and development of the compendium of resources (listed below). These individuals provided subject matter expertise for the duration of the project, but were especially generous and helpful in the review of the reports and the provision of recommendations for the compendium. In addition, many health care organizations submitted questionnaire responses and patient discharge / educational examples. We are grateful to those clinicians and health care providers who were willing to share their organization information.

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## Educational Resources for VTE (DVT / PE) and Anticoagulant Medications

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<td><strong>Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="https://www.ahrq.gov/">https://www.ahrq.gov/</a></td>
<td>The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used. In 2008, AHRQ published <em>Preventing Hospital-Acquired Venous Thromboembolism: A Guide for Effective Quality Improvement</em>, later updated in 2016. The purpose of this updated guide is to assist hospital improvement teams to close the implementation gap as effectively and efficiently as possible. The guide outlines a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to optimizing inpatient VTE prevention, and the techniques described are designed to be portable to a wide variety of inpatient settings. <strong>Booklet—Blood Thinner Pills: Your Guide to Using Them Safely:</strong> An easy-to-read booklet that educates people about blood thinners. It offers basic information about the medication, including reasons why a clinician might prescribe it. It also includes tips on diet, medicines and foods to avoid, important precautions for some daily activities, and when to seek help. <strong>Video—Staying Active and Healthy with Blood Thinners:</strong> A 10-minute video that shows how small changes in daily routines can help people take blood thinners safely. What is a blood thinner? What does it do? Why it is helpful? These questions are answered in this video, which features easy-to-understand explanations of how blood thinners work and why it's important to take them correctly. The video and brochure are available in English and Spanish. <strong>“New Oral Anticoagulants” webpage providing cases and commentary.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>American College of Cardiology</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.acc.org/">http://www.acc.org/</a></td>
<td>The mission of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health. CardioSmart is an initiative that provides patient education related to cardiovascular disease. The webpage also provides information on anticoagulant medications. <strong>CardioSmart</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Deep Vein Thrombosis&lt;br&gt;  - Pulmonary Embolism</td>
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| **American College of Chest Physicians**<br>http://www.chestnet.org/ | The CHEST Foundation creates trusted patient education resources and disease awareness campaigns that empower patients to engage in better managing their health. Available in print, on the Web, and for mobile devices, CHEST Foundation patient education tools help patients easily understand complex lung health conditions and procedures. These webpages provide information related to VTE and blood clots. Each webpage includes content such as:  
- Key facts  
- Symptoms, causes, risk factors, and complications  
- Tests and diagnosis  
- Treatment  
- Lifestyle  
- Questions to ask your healthcare providers  
Infographics, videos, and shareable postcards to help spread VTE awareness are also available. |
| **American College of Physicians**<br>https://www.acponline.org/ | The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a diverse community of internal medicine specialists and subspecialists united by a commitment to excellence. Patient education resources and tools were developed to help patients and their families understand health conditions and facilitate communication between patients and their healthcare team. |
| **American Heart Association / American Stroke Association**<br>http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/ | American Heart Association's mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The VTE website contains information regarding:  
- What is VTE?  
- Symptoms and diagnosis  
- Prevention and treatment  
- Risk factors  
- Expert Blogs  
It also includes downloadable patient sheets (What is VTE? and Who is at Risk for VTE?), information on excessive blood clotting, survivor’s story.  
There are also videos which include:  
- Signs and symptoms of VTE  
- Treatment for VTE  |
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<td><strong>American Society of Hematology (ASH)</strong>  &lt;br&gt; <a href="http://www.hematology.org/">http://www.hematology.org/</a>  &lt;br&gt; - Videos:  &lt;br&gt;  - How DVT can lead to PE  &lt;br&gt;  - Blood Clots: A Patient's Journey  &lt;br&gt; - Information sheet: DVT: Myths vs. Facts  &lt;br&gt; - Pocket guide: Antithrombotic Drug Dosing and Management—Presented by ASH in February 2014*, adapted in part from The American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy (9th Edition)</td>
<td>The American Society of Hematology (ASH) is the world’s largest professional society concerned with the causes and treatments of blood disorders. ASH is committed to helping practicing hematoologists provide quality care to patients, continue their professional development, and enhance their knowledge and expertise.  &lt;br&gt; Resources include videos, general information (e.g., risk factors, symptoms, treatment, etc.), web link to patient groups. In addition, provider resources (e.g., clinical and quality guidelines) to help practicing hematoologists improve the quality of care provided to patients are available.  &lt;br&gt; ASH developed a series of brief, evidence-based pocket guides to help physicians provide quality care to patients.</td>
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<td><strong>American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)</strong>  &lt;br&gt; <a href="https://www.ashp.org/">https://www.ashp.org/</a>  &lt;br&gt; - Managing and Reversing Direct Oral Anticoagulant: A Discussion Guide  &lt;br&gt; - Online Resource Center</td>
<td>American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) helps its members achieve this mission by advocating and supporting the professional practice of pharmacists in hospitals, health systems, ambulatory care clinics, and other settings spanning the full spectrum of medication use.  &lt;br&gt; This discussion guide was developed to meet the needs of pharmacists practicing in hospitals, ambulatory clinics, and other health systems, including members of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.</td>
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<td><strong>American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN)</strong>  &lt;br&gt; <a href="https://athn.org/">https://athn.org/</a>  &lt;br&gt; - Anticoagulant Medications – Discharge Instructions  &lt;br&gt;  - Fondaparinux – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Warfarin – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Apixaban – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Dalteparin – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Enoxaparin – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Dabigatran – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Edoxaban – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a>  &lt;br&gt;  - Rivaroxaban – <a href="https://athn.org/">English</a> and <a href="https://athn.org/">Spanish</a></td>
<td>The American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by bleeding and clotting disorders.  &lt;br&gt; ATHN has a variety of patient education resources available on their website, they also have materials focused on discharge instructions for anticoagulation medications.</td>
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| **American Venous Forum (AVF)**  
http://www.veinforum.org/  
- The Layman’s Handbook of Venous Disorders | The American Venous Forum (AVF), is dedicated to improving the care of patients with venous and lymphatic disease. Founded in 1987, AVF fosters cutting edge research and clinical innovation and educates health care professionals, patients and policy makers about venous and lymphatic diseases.  
The webpage provides education for healthcare professionals, patients, and other stakeholders about venous and lymphatic disease. The website contains an online handbook, The Layman's Handbook of Venous Disorders, which was intended to provide information about venous diseases in a readable format to patients and the public. |
| **Anticoagulation Forum**  
http://acforum.org/ | The Anticoagulation Forum is a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization of health care professionals that will improve the quality of care for patients taking antithrombotic medications.  
The Anticoagulation Forum Centers of Excellence provides a comprehensive, searchable resource center that provides the guidelines and tools for providers and patients.  
The resource center contains information regarding:  
- Drug therapy management  
- Disease state management  
- Transitions and coordination of care  
- Service operational performance  
- Patient and family education  
- Comprehensive toolkits  
- Apps for practitioners  
- Additional resources |
| **Centers of Excellence**  
http://excellence.acforum.org/  
- Resource Center  
- Patient and family education resources |  
The patient and family education resources includes disease specific patient education (e.g., DVT, VTE), DOAC patient education materials, heparin / low-molecular-weight heparin patient education materials, patient education policies and procedures, and warfarin patient education materials. Accompanying educational videos, patient guides, and information in English and Spanish, as well as videos in Sign language are available. |
| **Anticoagulation Toolkit: A Consortium-Developed Quick Reference for Anticoagulation**  
- DOAC Education Patient Checklist  
  - Dabigatran  
  - Apixaban  
  - Rivaroxaban  
  - Edoxaban | This toolkit was produced by the Michigan Anticoagulation Quality Improvement Initiative (MAQI²), a consortium of anticoagulation clinics and experts from across the state of Michigan.  
The toolkit is designed to provide practitioners with an up-to-date, reliable, and easy to use source of information for anticoagulation. Where possible, the content is based on the latest available evidence-based guidelines and research. |
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| **Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**  
https://www.pradaxa.com/  
- Pradaxa® Patient Brochure | This manufacturer website provides Pradaxa® (dabigatran)-specific drug information via patient guides published by the pharmaceutical manufacturer. |
| **Bristol-Myers Squibb / Pfizer, Inc.**  
http://www.eliquis.bmscustomerconnect.com/  
- Eliquis® Patient Medication Guide | This manufacturer website provides Eliquis® (apixaban)-specific drug information presented through patient guides published by the pharmaceutical manufacturer. |
| **Canadian Patient Safety Institute**  
http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/  
- Venous Thromboembolism Prevention (VTE): Getting Started Kit Components  
- Patient Question Checklist | The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) has over 10-years of experience in safety leadership and implementing programs to enhance safety in every part of the healthcare continuum.  
This free resource contains clinical information, information on the science of improvement, and other information to optimize the appropriate use of thromboprophylaxis.  
The Patient Question Checklist is designed to empower patients with information and tools to help them ask good questions, connect with the right people, and learn as much as they can before, during, and after treatment. |
| **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**  
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dvt/  
- Free materials  
- Venous Thromboembolism (Blood Clots)  
- Stop the Clot®: What Every Healthcare Professional Should Know  
- Stop the Clot, Spread the Word™ Video | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) focuses national attention on developing and applying disease control and prevention.  
CDC site includes facts, complications, risks, and treatment options for VTE (DVT / PE).  
Contains checklists, e-cards, placards, fact sheets, informational brochures.  
Links to Stop the Clot and Spread the Word campaign and materials. |
| **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**  
https://www.cms.gov/  
- Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) | The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, is part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administers programs such as: Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace.  
CMS as part of a patient initiative developed a list of resources related to venous thromboembolism (VTE). |
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<td><strong>Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC)</strong>  &lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/high-risk-medicines/anticoagulants">http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/high-risk-medicines/anticoagulants</a></td>
<td>The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) was established in 2004 as one of the five key structural reforms outlined in the New South Wales Health Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Program (PSCQP) and as an evolution of the Institute for Clinical Excellence. The Clinical Excellence Commission NOAC Guidelines and related documents are intended to assist providers with the inpatient and discharge management of patients receiving a NOAC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- NOAC Guidelines  &lt;br&gt;- NOAC - Dabigatran Patient Information  &lt;br&gt;- NOAC - Apixaban Patient Information  &lt;br&gt;- NOAC - Rivaroxaban Patient Information</td>
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<td><strong>Clot Care</strong>  &lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.clotcare.com/">http://www.clotcare.com/</a></td>
<td>ClotCare strives to help others improve lives by providing both patients and healthcare providers with the most up-to-date information and expert insight on optimal use of antithrombotic and anticoagulant therapy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- DVT / PE  &lt;br&gt;- Coumadin / Warfarin</td>
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| **Clot Connect®**  <br>http://www.clotconnect.org/ | Clot Connect is an education and outreach project led by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Blood Clot Outreach Program. It provides patients and healthcare professionals connection to clinically relevant education resources on deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, thrombophilia and anticoagulation. A new brochure produced by Clot Connect for patients with new DVT or PE  

The website contains resources for providers and patients. Some of content includes:  
- Basic VTE information  
- Anticoagulant information (e.g., DOACs)  
- Patient handouts

A new brochure produced by Clot Connect for patients with new DVT or PE |  |
| - Healthcare Provider Information  <br>- Patient Information  <br>- Patients with newly diagnosed DVT and PE |  |
| **Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.**  <br>http://savaysa.com/ | This manufacturer website provides Savaysa® (edoxaban)-specific drug information via patient guides published by the pharmaceutical manufacturer. |
| - Savaysa® Patient Medication Guide |  |
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| **Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP)**  [http://www.ismp.org/](http://www.ismp.org/)  | The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a nonprofit organization devoted entirely to medication error prevention and safe medication use. The organization is known and respected worldwide as the premier resource for impartial, timely, and accurate medication safety information.  
  - **Home page:** 2017 ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Antithrombotic Therapy  
    - 2017 ISMP Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Antithrombotic Therapy  
    - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
  - High-Alert Medications: Consumer Leaflets with Safety Tips  
  - High Alert Medication Learning Guides  
  This updated tool is a revision of the 2005 version of the self-assessment to include safety strategies for the newer oral anticoagulants. The self-assessment is designed to help organizations assess the medication safety practices in their institution surrounding the use of antithrombotic therapy and identify opportunities for improvement.  
  ISMP also has consumer leaflets available on their website for several high-alert medications, including warfarin. These leaflets are freely available to download and can be reproduced to distribute to consumers and/or for health professionals to use during their counseling sessions with patients. The leaflets are available in English and in Spanish. |
| **International Society of Thrombosis Haemostasis**  [https://www.isth.org/](https://www.isth.org/)  | The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) is a global not-for-profit membership organization advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic and bleeding disorders.  
  - Resources and Partners |
| **Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**  [https://www.xarelto-us.com/](https://www.xarelto-us.com/)  | This manufacturer website provides Xarelto® (rivaroxaban)-specific drug information presented through patient guides published by the pharmaceutical manufacturer.  
  - Xarelto® Patient Resources  
  - Xarelto® Patient Medication Guide |
| **Lifeblood / Thrombosis – UK**  [http://www.thrombosisuk.org/home.php](http://www.thrombosisuk.org/home.php)  | Thrombosis UK priority is for everyone to know the risks signs and symptoms of VTE and to support research to extend understanding into the prevention and best management of VTE.  
  - Thrombosis UK General Information Leaflet  
  - Audio / visual resources  
  - Patient information  
  The website includes general information related to VTE, such as: definition, signs and symptoms, risk factors, patient information (e.g., leaflets), FAQs, and audio / visual resources.  
  There is also content related to thrombosis news and information, event updates, facts and tips, patient case stories, and a VTE self-assessment. |
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<td><strong>National Blood Clot Alliance</strong></td>
<td>The National Blood Clot Alliance (NBCA) is a non-profit, voluntary health organization dedicated to advancing the prevention, early diagnosis and successful treatment of life-threatening blood clots such as deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and clot-provoked stroke. The website contains basic information about blood clots, as well as additional related information (e.g., blood thinners, women and blood clots, athletes and blood clots). Website also contains resources for healthcare professionals (e.g., clinical guidance from the anticoagulation forum).</td>
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<td><a href="https://www.stoptheclot.org/">https://www.stoptheclot.org/</a></td>
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<td>• About Clots</td>
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<td>• Patient Stories</td>
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<td>• Resources for Healthcare Professionals</td>
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<td><strong>National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</strong></td>
<td>The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) provides global leadership for a research, training, and education program to promote the prevention and treatment of heart, lung, and blood diseases and enhance the health of all individuals so that they can live longer and more fulfilling lives. The webpages include the basic content related to DVTs and PEs (e.g., causes, symptoms and signs, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Deep Vein Thrombosis</td>
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<td>• Pulmonary Embolism</td>
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<td><strong>North American Thrombosis Forum</strong></td>
<td>The North American Thrombosis Forum (NATF) is a multi-disciplinary organization founded with the objective of improving patient care through the advancement of thrombosis education. This organization aims to improve patient care, outcomes, and public health by utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach to advance thrombosis research and education. This website contains information for both patients and clinicians. The content includes items such as:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• DVT / PE Risk Assessment Tool</td>
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| **Society for Vascular Medicine**  
https://www.vascularmed.org/ |  
- Resources for patients  
- DVT Toolkit  

The mission of the Society for Vascular Medicine is to improve the integration of vascular biological advances into medical practice and to maintain high standards of clinical vascular medicine. The Society develops patient and other resources in support of its mission.  

The Society for Vascular Medicine and Janssen have developed the DVT toolkit of information for medical offices—especially primary care offices—and for patients who want to learn more about DVT. These tools can be used and customized to fit an individual practice and form the basis for an outpatient DVT treatment pathway or guideline. |
| **Stop the Clot, Spread the Word™**  
https://www.stoptheclot.org/spreadtheword |  
- Stop the Clot, Spread the Word™ infographic  

The National Blood Clot Alliance and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have created a seminal public health campaign to get the word out about blood clot risks and the signs and symptoms of blood clots.  

The website contains information, for patients and providers, on blood clots, such as:  
- Signs and symptoms  
- Risk factors  
- News articles  
- Various events  

Also, includes campaign items to help spread the word—infographics, signs and symptoms chart, risk factor chart, and YouTube videos. |
| **This Is Serious**  
http://thisisserious.org/ |  
- What are DVT and PE?  
- Patient Information  

"This Is Serious" is a national campaign to drive awareness and action around the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), or blood clots, in women.  

The campaign was developed by Dr. Thomas Ortel of the Duke Hemostasis and Thrombosis Center in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This campaign is a multi-media program aimed at educating women about DVT and PE and motivating them to take action if they believe they may be at risk.  

This campaign addresses how to prevent blood clots if you are a hospitalized patient, particularly if you are undergoing surgery, being treated for trauma, receiving cancer treatment, or hospitalized due to pregnancy, since these can all increase the risk to develop a blood clot. |
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| **Thrombosis Canada™**<br>http://thrombosiscanada.ca/ | Thrombosis Canada™ provides clinical guidance and tools of which some focus on VTE and anticoagulation therapy (e.g., DOACs). This content includes:  
- Drug information sheets  
- Disease information sheets  
- Screening guidelines  
- Videos for patients  
- Clinical guidelines  
- Clinical tools  
Thrombosis Canada also has a VTE Awareness Campaign which serves as one of many ways to increase the awareness of VTE prevalence, its symptoms, and the importance of recognizing and treating this life-threatening condition. The organization also provides customizable materials for other healthcare organizations to adapt and use to build VTE awareness. |
| **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**<br>https://www.fda.gov/ | The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations that make medical products more effective, safer, and more affordable and by helping the public get the accurate, science-based information they need to use medical products and foods to maintain and improve their health.  
- Xarelto (Rivaroxaban) Tablets  
- Eliquis (apixaban) Tablets  
- Savaysa (edoxaban tosylate) Tablets  
- Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate mesylate) capsules |
| **Venous Resource Center**<br>http://venousdisease.com/ | The Venous Resource Center has been created to address certain clinical, educational, and research aspects of venous disease.  
It includes information for both patients and doctors. There are sections that define a few of the conditions associated with venous disease, outlines basic methods of prevention and treatment, provides libraries of videos for patients and providers, slide presentations, guidelines, etc.  
The site also includes a simple tool, developed by Dr. Joseph A. Caprini, to help assess whether you are at risk of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or blood clotting. The assessment is in use by physicians and medical facilities around the world.  
- Patients  
  - About the DVT Risk Assessment  
  - Take the DVT Assessment Now  
  - Information about Venous Disease  
- Doctors  
  - Glossary of Venous Disease Risk Factors  
  - Venous Disease Resources and Links |
### Additional Joint Commission information related to VTE (DVT / PE) and Anticoagulant Medications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources / Materials</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Joint Commission</strong> <a href="https://www.jointcommission.org/">https://www.jointcommission.org/</a></td>
<td>The venous thromboembolism (VTE) measures were developed as a result of the 'National Consensus Standards for the Prevention and Care of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)' project between The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum (NQF) that formally began in January 2005.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Venous Thromboembolism Performance Measure Set</td>
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<td><strong>Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare</strong> <a href="http://www.centerfortransforminghealthcare.org/">http://www.centerfortransforminghealthcare.org/</a></td>
<td>In October 2014, the Center for Transforming Healthcare launched its eleventh project, which aims to prevent rates of venous thromboembolism (VTE).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facts about the VTE Prevention</td>
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